GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:457
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
INDO-USA JOINT WORKING GROUP MEET
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third round of India-United States Joint Working Group meeting was held in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and (

(c) the decision taken therein with regard to cross-border terrorism and Taliban?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) The third meeting of the India-United States Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism was held on 25-26 June 2001 in Washington D.C.

(b) The two sides expressed concern at the growing menace of international terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking. The two sides unequivocally condemned all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomever committed, and whatever the considerations that may be invoked to justify them.

The Indian side welcomed the U.S. decision to qualitatively upgrade and widen the scope of the Antiterrorism Training Assistance Program and the U.S. offer to share experience and expertise in strengthening counter-terrorism institutional structures in India. The Indian government accepted a U.S. offer for a seminar to counter chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) terrorist threats later this year. The two sides decided to enhance exchange of information and strengthen coordination of approaches and actions in combating international terrorism. In addition, the two sides continued consultations on the India-proposed Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism being discussed in the Sixth Committee of the UNGA, and reiterated support for its early finalisation.

(c) Both sides agreed that the policies of the Taliban continue to foster terrorism that threatens the interest of both countries, as well as regional and international stability. They affirmed their support for United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1267 and 1333 imposed on the Taliban for supporting terrorism, harboring Usama bin Ladin and failing to close down terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. They agreed on the critical importance of the effective implementation of these resolutions, including through an appropriate monitoring mechanism.